

## Response to the Closure of Thibeault Energy

Help may be available for low income customers of Thibeault Energy through MaineHousing's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

- Low-income customers of Thibeault Energy who have not applied to LIHEAP may be eligible for a fuel assistance payment.
- LIHEAP customers whose first benefit payments were made to Thibeault Energy were allowed to designate a new vendor for this year's supplemental payment.
- Emergency fuel payments may be available to LIHEAP customers with less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a tank of fuel remaining and no means to pay.

### Low-income customers of Thibeault Energy who have not applied to LIHEAP

Representatives of MaineHousing will be available at the local event to take applications from those Thibeault customers who might qualify for LIHEAP but have not applied.

Those who cannot attend the event should contact their local Community Action Agency. Residents of Cumberland County can contact the People's Regional Opportunity Program at 1-800-698-4959 or 207-553-5900. Residents of Sagadahoc County can call the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program at 1-800-542-8227 or 207-859-1500.

Customers may be eligible for LIHEAP if their household income is considered to be low or very low under federal guidelines.

Household income limits:

\$21,660 for a household of one	\$36,620 for a household of three
\$29,140 for a household of two	\$44,100 for a household of four

Income limits for households that include someone who is subject to hypothermia (someone who is elderly, a child under the age of two, or has a certificate from their physician):

\$24,692 for a household of one	\$41,747 for a household of three
\$33,220 for a household of two	\$50,274 for a household of four

If your income is close to these limits, you should apply because certain things such as medical expenses are deducted from household income.

Applicants should bring:

- Proof of household gross income for the past 3 months or 12 months, not including the month you apply. (Household income includes, but is not limited to wages, social security, unemployment, pension, alimony, TANF, foster care and disability payments.)
- The most recent energy and utility bills.
- The name and account number for your new fuel company (if a new one has been selected).
- If you are a renter, your landlord's name, address, phone number and recent receipts for the past 3 months.

### LIHEAP customers of Thibeault Energy

Because federal funding for LIHEAP was provided in two parts this year, base funding and supplemental funding, Thibeault Energy had received initial benefit payments on behalf of its LIHEAP customers, but not the supplemental payment.

- Federal law prevents a replacement payment for the initial benefit payment.
- LIHEAP customers were asked to designate a new fuel vendor for their supplemental payments, and supplemental payments for those customers have been made to the new vendors.

### Emergency fuel payments

LIHEAP customers – both existing and new customers – may be eligible for up to \$400 in emergency fuel if their tank is below  $\frac{1}{4}$  full and they have no means to pay their fuel vendor. A \$400 maximum benefit applies each heating season.